

PRESS BRIEFING

Monday, October 24, 2005

Woolfolk, 1st Floor, Conference Room East

1. Deadlines extended

- Individual assistance until Jan. 11, 2006 (from Oct. 28)
- 100% costs of debris removal until Nov. 26 (from Oct. 28)

Comments:

“The extensions of these two deadlines will give victims of this devastating hurricane more time to apply for a range of disaster assistance, and help their cash-strapped local governments qualify for 100 percent coverage of debris removal costs for a longer period of time. I have been working closely with federal officials over the past few weeks to secure these deadline extensions and believe they will help in our immediate goal of cleaning up, and our ultimate goal of rebuilding bigger and better than before.”

2. Charrette & Governor’s Commission on Recovery, Rebuilding & Renewal

- Sum up the event and reiterate that local people will make decisions (Note: Some newspapers have published letters from readers saying things like, “I wish local people had a say-so.”)
- Encourage local people to participate in their own future by voicing opinions

PRESS BRIEFING

Monday, October 3, 2005

5 p.m.

Woolfolk, 1st floor, Conference Room East

Participants: Governor Haley Barbour, Robert Latham, Bill Carwile

1. FEMA approves another **\$27.3 million in public assistance**

- Another round of public infrastructure has been obligated to the state and Electric Power Associations for Hurricane Katrina protective measures.

- The funds, made available from the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency's Public Assistance Infrastructure Program, were obligated to the following five entities:

- Mississippi Department of Public Safety: \$7,396,002
- Coast Electric Power Association: \$6,825,000
- Dixie Electric Power Association: \$10,684,375

- East Mississippi Electric Power Association: \$1,345,500
- Southwest Mississippi Electric Power Association: \$1,111,500
- This is FEMA's fourth release of infrastructure funds in less than a month. It brings the total obligated to date to more than \$182 million
- The Public Assistance Program reimburses eligible costs incurred for emergency protective measures, debris removal, and the repair, replacement or restoration of disaster-damaged public facilities, such as roads and bridges, buildings, parks, water control facilities and utilities. Through FEMA's expedited process, 50 percent of the obligated funds will be immediately available to the listed local governments.

2. Katrina recovery continues

- Housing

3. Governor's Commission on Recovery, Rebuilding and Renewal

- a. Issue-specific committees begin meeting, such as Infrastructure, Tourism
- b. Charrette – "Mississippi Renewal Forum" starts next week to explore creative ideas on rebuilding the Coast
- c. New Web site: www.governorscommission.com

4. Mississippi Hurricane Recovery Fund

5. Comments on Special Session

6. Q & A

